

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

***Reply under 37 CFR §1.116 - Expedited Procedure - Technology Center 1600***

**In re application of:** Hunter *et al.*

**Application No.** 10/616,410

**Filed:** July 8, 2003

**FILED BY EFS ON July 17, 2006**

**Confirmation No.** 9290

**For:** NIMA INTERACTING PROTEINS

**Examiner:** Lei Yao, Ph.D.

**Art Unit:** 1642

**Attorney Reference No.** 7158-71253-09

SUBMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This Amendment and Response to Final Office Action ("Amendment") is filed in response to the final Office action, dated May 16, 2006 ("Office Action"). A three-month period for reply was set in the Office Action; however, a reply filed within two months of the mailing date of the Office Action receives the potential benefit described on page 11 of the Office Action. A timely response within two months is made on or before Monday, July 17, 2006. It is believed that no fee is required to file this Amendment. A terminal disclaimer accompanies the filing of this Amendment (as discussed below in more detail). The fee for filing a terminal disclaimer is being paid online. If any additional fees are required in connection with filing the foregoing Amendment and/or terminal disclaimer, the Commission is authorized to charge such fees to the deposit account referenced on the accompanying transmittal letter.

Please amend the specification as set forth on page 2.

Please amend the claims as set forth beginning on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 5 and conclude on page 8.